E3 bearings 48 as the wear surfaces is an improvement over prior art fence locking assemblies wherein the wear surface is a plate. The handle cam 46 and annular bearings 48 provide a smoother action and longer life over prior art fence assemblies having a plate as a wear surface.

In the claims:

45. (AMENDED) A fence assembly for supporting a workpiece relative to a saw blade of a saw, the fence assembly comprising:

a fence channel having first and second ends;

a head assembly coupled to the first end of the fence channel, the head assembly including a housing and a handle cam, the handle cam defining a handle portion extending from a camming portion situated in the housing;

E4 a locking pawl proximate the second end of the fence channel;

a rod interconnecting the camming portion and the locking pawl, the rod having a first end connected to the camming portion at an off-center location and a second end connected to the locking pawl; and

at least one annular bearing situated in the housing, the annular bearing receiving the camming portion such that the handle cam is rotatably supported only by the annular bearing to eliminate direct contact between the camming portion and the housing, wherein the camming portion rotates within the annular bearing upon actuation of the handle portion to move the rod, and thus the locking pawl, towards the head assembly.

50. (AMENDED) A table saw comprising:

a base;

a table connected to the base and having an upper surface;

E5 a blade extending through the table;

a first rail connected to a first side of the table;

a second rail connected to a second side of the table;

a fence channel having first and second ends;

a head assembly coupled to the first end of the fence channel, the head assembly slidably received by the first rail and including housing and a handle cam, the handle cam defining a handle portion extending from a camming portion situated in the housing;

a locking pawl proximate the second end of the fence channel;

a rod interconnecting the camming portion and the locking pawl, the rod having a first end connected to the camming portion at an off-center location and a second end connected to the locking pawl; and

at least one annular bearing situated in the housing, the annular bearing receiving the camming portion such that the handle cam is rotatably supported only by the annular bearing to eliminate direct contact between the camming portion and the housing, wherein the camming portion rotates within the annular bearing upon actuation of the handle portion to move the rod, and thus the locking pawl, towards the second rail to apply a clamping pressure to the second rail.